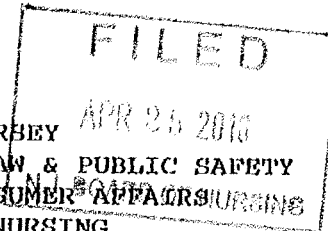
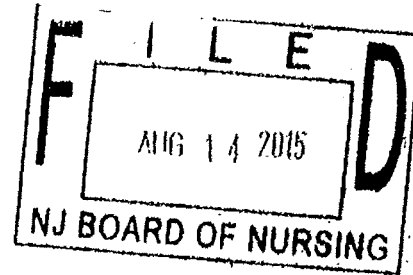


JOHN J. HOFFMAN  
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY  
Division of Law  
124 Halsey Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 45029  
Newark, New Jersey 07101  
Attorney for the State Board of Nursing

By: Shirley Dickstein  
Deputy Attorney General  
(973) 648-2779

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF NURSING



IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION  
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

Lafhesa L. Powell, C.H.H.A.  
Certificate No. 26NH14321200

HOMEMAKER-HOME HEALTH AIDE  
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

PROVISIONAL ORDER OF  
DISCIPLINE

☒ FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE  
(Finalized by default  
on April 25 2016 2016/25/16)

**FINAL**

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following preliminary findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Lafhesa L. Powell ("Respondent") is a certified homemaker-home health aide in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto. (Exhibit A).

2. Upon receipt of a flagging notice indicating that Respondent was arrested on March 6, 2015 by the Haddon Heights Police for violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10A(4), Possession of Marijuana/Hash Less Than 50 Grams, violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-1A, Obstruction Administration of Law, the Board sent a letter of inquiry, requesting certain information and submission of documents, to Respondent's address of record in Camden, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about March 16, 2015. A response was due within twenty (20) days. The certified mailing was delivered and signed for on March 21, 2015. The regular mailing was not returned (Exhibit B).

3. To date, Respondent has not responded to the Board's request for information.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to respond to the Board's request for information constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, in contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, which the Board deems professional misconduct pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), subjecting Respondent to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

Certified homemaker-home health aides provide care to some of the most vulnerable members of our society - the infirm

elderly. They have unfettered access to the homes, personal possessions, bank accounts and credit cards of their elderly patients. Possible addiction to illegal substances or alcohol raise particular concern as certificate holders who have not obtained appropriate treatment may pose a risk to the safety and security of those individuals entrusted to their care. Respondent's arrest for drug related conduct combined with her lack of cooperation with the Board's inquiry are sufficient indication that Respondent's continued practice as a homemaker home health aide may jeopardize the safety and welfare of the public such that diagnostic testing and monitoring or psychological evaluation are warranted as a condition of continued certification pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(e) and (f) and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(1).

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015,  
ORDERED that, UPON THE FILING OF A FINAL ORDER OF  
DISCIPLINE:

1. Respondent's certificate to practice as a homemaker-home health aide will be suspended until such time as Respondent cooperates fully with the Board's investigation by providing the Board with the information requested in the Board's letter of inquiry and demonstrates compliance with paragraph 2 below.

2. Respondent shall:

- a. Provide the Board with evidence that she is capable of discharging the functions of a

certificate holder in a manner consistent with the public's health, safety and welfare and that she is not then suffering from any impairment or limitation resulting from the use of any addictive substance which could affect her practice.

- b. Provide the Board with an in-depth, current evaluation from a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor or psychiatrist or psychologist knowledgeable in addiction therapy who is aware of the circumstances of Respondent's arrest and this Provisional Order of Discipline and who has been pre-approved by the Board. Respondent shall provide documentation that she has complied with all recommendations of the licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor or psychiatrist or psychologist.
- c. Affirmatively establish her fitness, competence and capacity to re-enter the active practice as a certified homemaker-home health aide within New Jersey.

3. Upon the filing of a FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE, Respondent shall promptly, within 5 (five) days, mail her certificate, wall and wallet version, to practice as a homemaker-home health aide to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

4. Upon the filing of a FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE, Respondent shall refrain from engaging in the practice as a homemaker-home health aide and shall not represent herself as a homemaker-home health aide until such time as her certification

is reinstated. Any practice in this State prior to such reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

5. Respondent is provisionally assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200). Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing of a FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

6. The within order shall be subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following entry hereof unless Respondent requests a modification or dismissal of the above stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by:

- a) Submitting a written request for modification or dismissal to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

- b) Setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed.
- c) Submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor or offered in mitigation of penalty.

7. Any submissions will be reviewed by the Board and the Board will thereafter determine whether further proceedings are necessary. If no material discrepancies are raised through a supplemental submission during the thirty-day period, or if the Board is not persuaded that the submitted materials merit further consideration, a FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE will be entered.

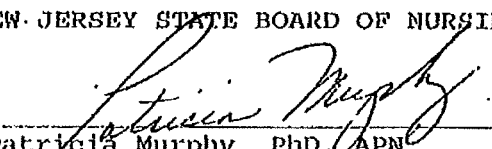
8. In the event that Respondent's submissions establish a need for further proceedings, including, but not limited to an evidentiary hearing, Respondent shall be notified with regard thereto. In the event that an evidentiary hearing is ordered, the preliminary findings of fact and conclusions of law contained herein may serve as notice of the factual and legal allegations in such proceeding. Further, in the event a hearing is held and upon review of the record, the Board shall not be limited to the findings, conclusions and sanctions stated herein.

9. In the event that the Board receives no written request for modification or dismissal within 30 days following entry of this Provisional Order of Discipline, without further Board review, all referenced preliminary Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and all provisional sanctions or penalties imposed by this Order shall automatically become the Final Decision and Order of the Board. Thereafter, Respondent's failure to comply with any sanction or penalty imposed by this Order shall be considered a violation of a Board Order in contravention of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (e) and (h) and N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and may subject Respondent to additional sanction and/or penalty.

10. The Board reserves the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings based upon any information that Respondent ultimately provides in response to the letter of inquiry or upon any new information the Board receives.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
President